



State of Idaho

## DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER  
Governor

GARY SPACKMAN  
Director

July 13, 2021

MELODIE GRADY  
1143 BEAR CREEK RD  
PRINCETON ID 83857

RE: Notice of Error Reply for Palouse River Basin Adjudication (PRBA) Claim No. 87-10649

Dear Ms. Grady:

The Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) has reviewed the Notice of Error Reply for the above referenced water right claim in which you disagreed with the limit set of 13,000 gallons per day.

The water limit of 13,000 gallons per day was set by the Idaho legislature to allow the many water users, who use a well at their home for domestic purposes, to file a claim in the PRBA based on beneficial use - without having to appropriate a new water right. Please note that domestic usage is generally defined as water usage for one home and includes up to ½ acre of lawn or garden irrigation.

Essentially, when you file a claim to a water right, you're stating that you're putting the water to a beneficial use going back to the first date when the well was drilled and hooked up to your home and used beneficially, with a specific amount of water. For your claim, that date was September 30, 1993. Since many people may not know their well capacity, a standard amount of 0.04 cfs (18 gallons per minute) is suggested based on a known amount of water which can be beneficially used for domestic purposes. Anything less than that amount may not be sufficient for your needs, and anything more than that amount may be wasted. Think of a swimming pool, if you don't fill it full enough, it can't be beneficially used; and likewise, if you overfill it, the excess runs over and flows downstream, or down the sewer; and is of no benefit - hence the definition of beneficial use.

This will not put limitations on your ability to sell your property in the future, and in fact, will be an asset to your property because it will have a decreed water right from your well, for your domestic usage, going back to May 20, 1997. If, in the future, you increase your water usage by adding a second home to the well, or watering additional acreage, you will be able to appropriate a water right for that additional usage.

I hope this allays your fears regarding your future usage of water. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. My phone number and email address are listed below. I've enclosed a brochure on Idaho water rights which may help answer some of your questions.

Sincerely,

Linda A. Werner  
Senior Water Resource Agent

Phone: (208) 762-2800/2802  
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